

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/4/06

SPONSOR Robinson LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Center for Regional Studies Program SB 681

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Senate Bill 678, Senate Bill 554, Senate Bill 415/FCS, Senate Bill 382, and Senate Bill 383.

Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 681 appropriates \$1,000,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the Regional Studies Endowment fund. The appropriation will be added to the fund to provide for professorships at the center for regional studies.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,000,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall not revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This funding request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by UNM to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY07.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to the Higher Education Department, the New Mexico Center for Regional Studies at UNM will be responsible for determining staff need, writing job descriptions, advertising, recruiting, and hiring qualified professors to enhance their program.

DUPLICATION AND RELATIONSHIP

The General Appropriation Act of 2006 (HAFC/H 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 78) includes \$1,000,000 for the Center for Regional Studies.

There are five special appropriation bills related to the Center for Regional Studies.

- Senate Bill 678 appropriates \$250,000 for general support to the Regional Studies Program.
- Senate Bill 382 appropriates \$250,000 to provide for undergraduate and graduate fellowships, scholarships and internships; to support faculty research and encourage faculty recruitment; to produce film documentaries and collaborations about New Mexico and the United States-Mexico southwest borderlands; and to increase library collections and archives.
- Senate Bill 383 appropriates \$250,000 for general support to the Southwest Regional Studies Program (the Higher Education Department notes that the Southwest Regional Studies Program is the same as the New Mexico Center for Regional Studies).
- Senate Bill 554 appropriates \$150,000 for the same purpose as Senate Bill 382.
- Senate Bill 415/FCS appropriates \$75,000 for the same purpose as Senate Bill 382, and \$50,000 for professorships at the Regional Studies Program.

The total of all of the above bills is \$2,025,000.

CH/nt